

The fact that this paper was edited in an international language, doubled by the English translation of the Romanian titles of studies published along the years, conveys a complementary advantage, by facilitating access to foreign researchers interested in what we may call the main bibliography on the reign of Stephen the Great.

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**Ovidiu Cristea, *Acest domn de la miazănoapte. Ștefan cel Mare în documente inedite venețiene* [This prince from the North. Stephen the Great in unpublished Venetian documents], Bucharest, Corint, 2004, 183 p.**

In a year – 2004 – when the Romanian medieval history was almost monopolized by the figure of Ștefan cel Mare (Stephen the Great), commemorative events filled in agendas of alleged “cultural-scientific” activities all throughout a country that seemed to be lost in a “requiem” state where, after weeping on the Great Voivode’s shoulder, everything ended in a Dâmbovița binge style. With all due respect, we cannot expel the National Archives from this weepy-hilarious trend. What was it needed for? Perhaps simply to tick another successful activity on the annual work report.

Fortunately, in this festive-heroic-like ambiance managed to “sneak in” some papers on the ruler of Moldavia written from a scientific perspective, and resulted from diligent and responsible research studies. The paper by Ovidiu Cristea with a preface by Acad. Șerban Papacostea is included in this category. The book does not cover the entire reign of Ștefan cel Mare, as the author underlines from the beginning of the introduction (p. 7). It is focused on some reports dispatched from January 1484 to February 1485 by two Venetian emissaries in the Ottoman Empire, namely the *bail* Pietro Bembo and Giovanni Dario, secretary of the Venetian Senate. It relates to 42 such reports, left unedited and unknown. What makes this paper by Ovidiu Cristea unique is above all the revealing of these documents.

As for Giovanni Dario, we take the liberty of suggesting to the author to consult some studies and articles on the personality of the Venetian character, which are not included in the rich bibliography offered by Mr. Ovidiu Cristea<sup>1</sup>.

This priority granted to the Venetian reports does not preclude the presentation of the entire context of this matter, which is depicted by the author minutely and in a well-documented manner, with a highlight on the Venetian-Ottoman relations and the efforts made by the diplomacy of St. Mark city to establish an anti-Ottoman alliance on a

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<sup>1</sup> Franz Babinger, *Johannes Darius (1414-1494), Sachwalter Venedigs in Morgenland, und sein Griechischer Umkreis*, Munich, 1961; Maria Francesca Tiepolo, *Appunti su Giovanni Dario*, in *Proceedings of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Cretan Studies*, 1971, Athens, 1981, p. 501-508; Vittorio Sgarbi, *Ca' Dario: mito e storia di Giovanni Dario e del suo palazzo tra Oriente e Venezia*, Milan, 1984; Maria Francesca Tiepolo, *I Greci nella Cancelleria veneziana: Giovanni Dario*, in *I Greci à Venezia: Atti del convegno internazionale di studio, Venezia, 5-7 novembre 1998*, Venice, 2002, p. 257-314.

large scale (see chapter I, p. 15-45), as well as the position of Moldavia in this same circumstance (see chapter II, p. 46-54). The other chapters, without omitting to explain what a mission to Constantinople involved (p. 55-66), approach the kernel of this subject, which is the reconstruction of the political events based on the reports of the two Venetian characters. The context is completed by what the author calls the "Epilogue" (p. 131-142).

The book is also accompanied by a useful chronology of the relations between the Ottoman Empire and its rivals during the reign of Stephen the Great (p. 170-174).

The volume by Ovidiu Cristea is not reduced to the simple presentation of the two sources. The general overview of the author is enhanced by the great number of references to other sources related to this theme from the *Archivio di Stato di Venezia*, both edited and in a manuscript stage. This fact enables us to conclude that we are dealing with a well-written paper, which should be given thorough consideration by all those interested in the foreign policy of Moldavia, but also in the general atmosphere of that epoch.

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**Christiane Neerfeld, «*Historia per forma di diaria*». *La cronachistica veneziana contemporanea a cavallo tra il Quattro e il Cinquecento*, Venice, Istituto Veneto di Scienze Lettere ed Arti, 2006, xv+268 p., 40,00 €**

Sous le patronage de l' Istituto Veneto di Scienze Lettere ed Arti, il est paru le livre de la chercheuse allemande Christiane Neerfeld, en fait la version italienne de sa thèse de doctorat soutenue à Rheinischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität de Bonn en 2001, sous le titre "Historia per forma di Diaria. *Venezianische Gegenwartskronistik um 1500*"<sup>1</sup>.

Par l'amabilité de Mme Neerfeld, nous sommes en possession d'un exemplaire de son livre dont l'importance pour l'historiographie vénitienne est certaine, étant données les précisions qu'il apporte de la perspective du genre diariste. Il est déjà une réalité reconnue, dans l'historiographie vénitienne de la Renaissance et de l'après-Renaissance, qu'en général "la chronique se transforme en journal"<sup>2</sup>. Plus concrètement, plus il est proche de sa contemporanéité, plus l'auteur modifie le style de son écriture, en passant du chroniqueur au "journaliste" pour rapporter les événements qu'il connaît directement ou à l'intermède de sa correspondance avec les protagonistes de l'époque<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Voir [http://hss.ulb.uni-bonn.de/diss\\_online/phil\\_fak/2001/neerfeld\\_christiane/0235.pdf](http://hss.ulb.uni-bonn.de/diss_online/phil_fak/2001/neerfeld_christiane/0235.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Cf., par exemple, Antonio Carile, *Note di cronachistica veneziana: Piero Giustinian e Nicolò Trevisan*, "Studi veneziani", 9, 1967, p. 103-125 (108).

<sup>3</sup> Pour le rapport chroniqueur-diariste dans le milieu historiographique vénitien, voir Dorit Raines, *Alle origini dell'archivio politico del patriziato: la cronaca «di consultazione» veneziana nei secoli XIV-XV*, "Archivio Veneto", série V<sup>ème</sup>, 150 (1998), p. 5-57 (33 ss.), ainsi que les remarques dattant déjà de l'époque de Marco Foscarini, *Della Letteratura Veneziana ed altri scritti intorno ad*